

CHAIN OF LAKES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

connection



8700 Conroy
Windermere Road
Orlando, Florida 32835
407-909-5400



Cheron Anderson
Principal

Toby Hurst
Assistant Principal

Angela Slaughter
Assistant Principal



James Brown
6th Grade Dean
8th Grade Dean A-L



Grace Gregory
7th Grade Dean
8th Grade Dean M-Z



Kim Powell
SAFE Coordinator



SCHOOL HOURS
M | T | T H | F
9:25 a.m. - 3:55 p.m.
W
9:25 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.



December 2020
Volume 16
Issue #1

VISION STATEMENT

Chain of Lakes Middle School is a community of students, parents and teachers, which strives to ensure that all members are successfully growing in academic and social development. We believe in educating the entire student in a safe, diversified environment in order to prepare for life's opportunities and challenges. We promote academic excellence, a life-long love of learning and responsible citizenship.

Growing Together, Learning for Life

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Osprey Families,

Since welcoming over 1,100 students on the first day, we have seen them grow by leaps and bounds. First quarter report cards were distributed on October 21 and second quarter report cards will be distributed on January 13. Students and parents can also view grade reports on Skyward under the portfolio link. Please take time to review your child's report card with him or her. Be sure to celebrate their success and encourage continued academic achievement. Simple words of encouragement can be very powerful in helping students stay focused and motivated. If your child did not do well, then take time to talk about what he or she needs to do in order to get back on track. Communication with your student, as well as their teacher, is imperative to their success. I implore you to identify an academic plan for your child, coupled with daily monitoring and encouragement; this will provide for a tremendous difference. If you need more ideas on how you can help your child succeed, please contact your grade level guidance counselor.

As we prepare to tackle the Florida Standards Assessment this spring, we are continuing with various progress monitoring measures. Please encourage your child to try their best on iReady assessments, common final exams, performance monitoring activities, and FSA practice tests. These measures give us valuable insight into areas of strengths and challenges for each student. With this information, we will be able to effectively support students' individual needs.

Many of our students are doing an outstanding job and we will be recognizing our Outstanding Ospreys through our Student of the Month program, honor roll celebrations, and iReady awards. So, please be on the lookout for these special recognitions throughout the upcoming quarter. Thank you to our PTSA, Partners in Education, and faculty and staff for helping us to recognize students who are soaring to

continued on page 2...

"Our focus...is to be the top producer of successful students in the nation."



Cheron Anderson
Principal



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

...continued from cover

success! A very special thank you to Baptiste Orthodontics for supporting our Student of the Month Program.

As always, please stay connected with your child's education and follow their academic growth. Stay in contact with your child's teacher and remember to regularly check Skyward and Canvas to stay up to date with your student's progress.

Don't forget to regularly visit our School Information Page on Canvas, social media, and the school website for the most up to date information on all things concerning Chain of Lakes Middle School.

Cheron Anderson
Principal

Registration News!

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY? If so, please contact Mrs. Tomlin our Registrar at (407) 909-5400 x5024256, for the procedure to update your address. It is important to keep the school updated with current home and email address and phone information.

All 7th grade students including those on LaunchEd@home need to have an updated FL 680 (immunizations) record on file BEFORE attending classes on campus.

Forms can be emailed to crystal.tomlin@ocps.net.

School Bus Information

HOW TO FIND YOUR BUS

1. WWW.OCPS.NET
2. UNDER QUICKLINKS "FIND MY BUS"
3. CLICK "ACCESS THE FIND A BUS SYSTEM"
4. SELECT GRADE
5. ENTER ADDRESS -
6. CLICK "FIND SCHOOL/TRANSPORTATION INFO"
7. REVIEW WHERE YOUR BUS PICKS UP AND THE TIMES
8. BE AT YOUR BUS STOP AT LEAST 5 MINUTES EARLY.

If transportation does not show, you may not be eligible for a bus because you live too close to the school.



Student Code of Conduct

It is important that students understand the policies and procedures of OCPS. Please take a moment and review with your child a copy of the OCPS Student Code of Conduct at: <https://www.ocps.net/cms/one.aspx?pageId=697640/>.

Communication is Key



Stay connected to Chain of Lakes Middle School by following us on Twitter at @COLMS_OCPS or "Like" our Facebook Page.

Cell Phones

Students must silence and put away cell phones at 9:25 every morning. Cell phones should be placed in a student backpack or purse and not removed until dismissal. Please make sure your student is following this policy.



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Hispanic Heritage Month

(September 15th – October 15th)

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

September 15th is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile and Belize also celebrate their independence days during this period and Columbus Day (Día de la Raza) is October 12th. The term Hispanic or Latino, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture origin regardless of race.

At COLMS, we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month teaching our students about diversity and culture. Our Drama students created some incredible Hispanic Heritage Month commercials for Venezuela, Mexico, Costa Rica, to name a few.



Support Person of the Year

Congratulation to Mr. Kenny Brown as our Support Person of the Year 2020-2021. Mr. Brown does an excellent job ensuring our campus is clean and safe.



Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to our Teacher of the Year 2020-2021, Ms. Cassandra Santiago.

Ms. Santiago has done a tremendous job working with our students and teachers.



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Debbie Franks
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Theatre



COLMS Theatre students have kept the light on with many exciting activities. With activities inside and outside the classroom, both virtually and in person, these students have excelled despite the

challenges of COVID-19. Some of the activities were:

STUDENT PROJECTS:

- Mask Making
- Historically based trash bag costume designs
- Hispanic Heritage Month Commercials
- COLMS Celebrates Community Project e
- Halloween Prop Projects

STUDENT VIRTUAL AND IN PERSON WORKSHOPS:

- Orlando Rep's Vote
- Thespians Northern Regional Competition
- Beauty and the Beast Showcase: A special thanks to Mr. Emlet on musical direction!
- Choreography
- Script Reading
- Improv

Troupe 89584 Thespians inducted 12 new members. They did amazing in our Northern Regional Virtual Competition where they participated in two days of individual events and workshops. COLMS celebrated 4 students on their Straight Superiors and 19 students on their Excellent ratings.

Students participated in a **Beauty and the Beast** workshop with both virtual and in person rehearsals. To view their showcase please go to: <https://youtu.be/t0l8m0lgqcl/>.

Thank you for helping us keep the light on. We want to thank our COLMS Community for helping us keep the light on, on our stage. To help support our program, please visit the links below.

1. Buy a t-shirt or hoodie for the holidays: <https://colms.spiritsale.com/>
2. Donate to our program: https://chainoflakesms.ocps.net/parents/school_pay



Coming soon, Just Another High School Play. Have a wonderful Holiday Season to our COLMS family and community.



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Chain News

Ms. Lublin received grant funds from the 2020-2021 Non-Fiction Classroom Library Impact Grant. The grant awarded was 465 dollars. It allowed Ms. Lublin to add multiple copies of high interest non-fiction books to her classroom library. Ms. Lublin sends a big Thank you to The Foundation for OCPS and is very thankful for their generosity. **Congratulations to Ms. Lublin from her COLMS family.**

The Social Studies students participated in a mock election on November 3rd and predicted the presidential results accurately with the Biden/Harris ticket taking 70% of the vote. The students enjoyed the election process afterwards following the Electoral College projections and recounts. This generation of voters is ready to perform their civic duty when they get their chance in the 2028 election as they debated the issues and registered their political party. Many thanks to the PTSA volunteer poll workers for their help with decorations and ballot counting; our PTSA is the best!



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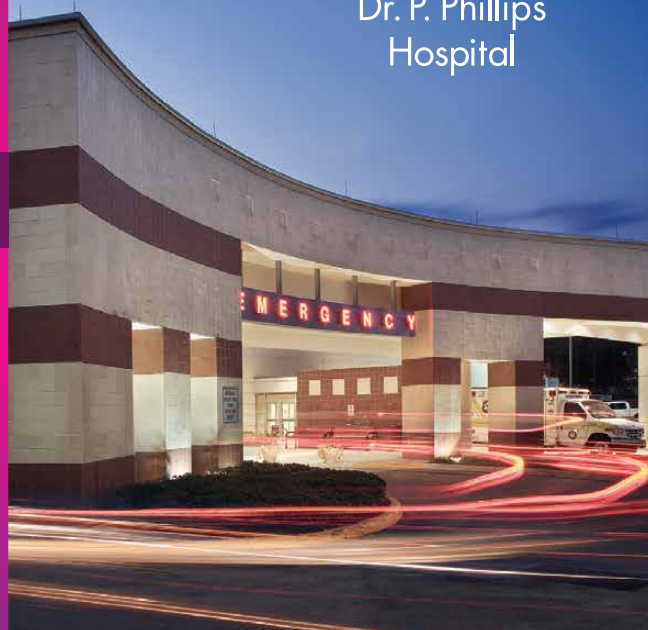
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YMCA Before and After School Zone

Parents if you are interested in the YMCA Before and After School Programs please take a look at our flyer and use the link below to register.
<https://ymcaofcentralflorida.org/programs/school/middle/>

Curbside Meal Distribution Program

Remember parents our Curbside Meal pickup is every Monday, from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. Except for holidays. Students will receive a weeks worth of food. Including breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks.

CURBSIDE MEALS

for OCPSLaunchED@Home



OC PS Orange County Public Schools



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS YMCA OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

BEFORE SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Y offers a positive environment for each student before the first bell rings. Students can engage in sports, the arts, culinary, team building, computers and much more during our Before School Program.

COST:

One time \$12 Registration fee

Online payments are made **weekly** in the amount of \$25 per week.

Start Date

Monday, August 24, 2020

Times

Monday through Friday
7:00 am to 9:00 am

AFTER SCHOOL ZONE

Do you enjoy athletics, the arts, or technology? We have after school clubs for everyone including basketball, robotics, dance, drama, art and more! Offerings vary by school.

Virtual After School Zone Available as well! All sites will have academic support and a variety of enrichment activities.

Need help with your school work? We are here for you.

COST: There is no charge. The After School Zone is funded by a grant from the Orange County Government.

Start Date

Monday, August 24, 2020

Times

Monday through Friday
4:00 to 6:00 pm
3:00 to 6:00 pm on Wednesdays



REGISTER: <https://ymcaofcentralflorida.org/programs/school/middle/registration/>
Face to Face and Virtual participants must register to participate.

QUESTIONS: Email MSP@cfymca.org

The YMCA of Central Florida will provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, provided these accommodations do not pose an undue hardship on the organization or jeopardize the safety of other students or employees. Management reserves the right to make all program-related decisions on reasonable accommodations.



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Mental and Emotional Health Instruction


The Florida Department of Education requires that students receive instruction in Health Education every year. A minimum of five hours of required instruction related to mental and emotional health for students in grades 6-12 is required for the 2020-2021 school year. In order to comply with this requirement, OCPS has designated days the instruction will take place. October 22, 2020 was the first date the lessons took place. Following days include November 12, January 21, February 18 and March 9.



ACCESSING REPORT CARDS

Click the "portfolio" tab on the left side menu.
You can visit the link below for a Tech Tip Video for detailed instructions!

<https://tinyurl.com/RCTechTip>



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PTSA
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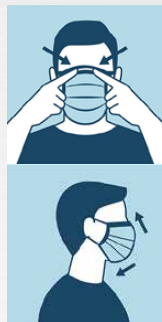
Face Covering Policy for Face to Face students

Face coverings/masks are required to be worn on campus all the time. Except while eating or drinking during designated meal and break times. Two important policy updates are:

- Neck gaiters and neck buffs are no longer permitted.
- Masks with exhalation valve are not permitted.

To maintain social distancing efforts, the courtyard remains closed. At the beginning of each school day, all students report to the gym or cafeteria if arriving before 9:25am.

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROCEDURES MANUAL AVAILABLE @ OCPS.NET



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8

ATTENTION

8th Grade Students & Parents

Your 8th grade student may qualify for the Horizon Scholars Program, a mentoring and scholarship college access program that culminates in a 2-year Florida pre-paid scholarship, which can be used at any college or University in Florida! The Valencia College Horizon Scholars Program will be selecting new students during the 2020-2021 school year. Selected students will begin the program in the fall of 9th grade.

Students are selected based on three criteria:

1. Academic performance – students must have an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or higher
2. Family income level
3. An interview, where the student demonstrates a desire to pursue a post-secondary education



For more information about the Horizon Scholars Program, and to fill out the online application, please see the information posted on Canvas, in the Academics and Guidance Quick Link. The deadline to apply for the Horizon Scholars Program is **January 21st, 2021**. If you have any questions about the program, you may also contact the 8th grade school counselor, Ms. Stoner at Ashley.stoner@ocps.net.

LAUNCHED@HOME REMINDERS

ATTENDANCE & TECH HELP

STUDENT ATTENDANCE:

- LaunchED@Home students are marked present when they log-in to class according to the bell schedule, and participate in live conferences each period.
- Student attendance and grades depend on their participation in their live conferences, which are scheduled according to the bell schedule.

TECH HELP:

- Families can sign-up for tech support appointments online.
- Sign up for tech support appointments at <https://tinyurl.com/COLMSTechAppt>



SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

MONDAY MESSAGES

Our amazing school counselors offer academic guidance and mental health services for our face-to-face and virtual students through their Monday Messages. Students who are in need of these services can make an appointment online at <http://bit.ly/colmsappt>. Additionally, parents needing to schedule a parent teacher conference can reach out to the appropriate grade level counselor by e-mail or phone.



MS. PITTENDREIGH, GR 6 | MS. FORRESTER, GR 7 | MS. STONER, GR 8